



Water for People & Nature: Lessons from Integrating Freshwater Conservation and WASH in Africa



ABCG FW WASH working group, CI, Conservation South Africa, USAID, JGI

INTRODUCTION

Freshwater biodiversity in Africa is threatened by population growth, poorly planned infrastructure and unpredictable changes in water quantity and quality due to climate change. Watersheds attract development, leading to increased pollution and competing demands for water resources. Millions of people still lack access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

PILOT PROJECTS

With support from the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Africa, the ABCG members CI, its affiliate Conservation South Africa, and JGI piloted innovative projects that integrate freshwater conservation and WASH activities in landscapes in South Africa and Uganda to address these challenges.

LESSONS LEARNED

CI, with its affiliate Conservation South Africa, and the Jane Goodall Institute integrated WASH activities into existing conservation programs in South Africa and Uganda, respectively. At the end of a two-year implementation period, both CSA and JGI staff agreed the pilots demonstrated meaningful results that prove the concept works.

The lessons learned from this phase include:

- WASH activities create incentives and co-benefits for conservation.

Gender analyses provide insights about roles and responsibilities relating to WASH and conservation that help with integration, resulting in more effective programming.

Community education campaigns foster sustainability and ownership of conservation and WASH approaches.

Monitoring and evaluation of these integrated projects is challenging but

essential for demonstrating impact.

Community-led project decision making and local policies support sustainability of these efforts.

Flexible funding to supplement and address unexpected challenges can make impact go further.

RESOURCES

For more information, please see:

- [The Convergence Factor: Lessons from Integrating Freshwater and WASH in Africa](#). 2018.
- [Freshwater WASH Integration Guidelines: A Framework for Implementation in sub-Saharan Africa](#). 2013



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP